

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123897

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:EGABINGTON

APPROVED BY NEA:EGABINGTON

S/S-O:PSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123897

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 4436 ACTION SECSTATE 19 MAY 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4436

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MELOY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON SARKIS' EVALUATION OF LOCAL SITUATION

REF: BEIRUT 4432

1. LEARNING SARKIS' VIEWS ON LOCAL SITUATION HAS BEEN A BIG HELP.
I SHARE HIS THINKING THAT SOME SLIGHT CHANCE REMAINS OF A POLITICAL
SOLUTION, AND CAN ONLY HOPE THAT HE IS RIGHT WHEN HE SAYS THAT ALL
PARTIES WANT TO STOP THE FIGHTING.

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PAGE 02 STATE 123897

2. THE SCENARIO FOR GETTING FRANGIE TO RESIGN SEEMS WORTHWHILE

PURSUING EVEN IF THE CHANCES ARE SLIM. AS SARKIS SAYS, IF THERE IS ONLY SLIGHT HOPE WITH FRANGIE OUT OF OFFICE, THERE IS NO HOPE WITH HIM

IN. WITH YOUR CONCURRENCE, THEREFORE, WE SHALL FOLLOW UP ON THIS MATTER. (I ANTICIPATE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING KARAME TO FULFILL HIS PART.)

3. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE CHRISTIANS NEED SOME HANDHOLDING. WITHOUT IT, THEY ARE FREIGHTENED INTO HARD POSITION. A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS THE RECENT VISIT OF JALLUD. NOTHING COULD BE BETTER DESIGNED TO FRIGHTEN THEM THAN TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE OF QUADDAFFI COME TO LEBANON. THE CHRISTIANS REACTED ACCORDING TO FORM AND IMMEDIATELY RALLIED AROUND THE PRESIDENT AS THE SYMBOL OF "MARONITISM." AS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENT MY DOING THE HANDHOLDING MYSELF, I PLAN TO SEND WARING OVER THE WEEKEND TO JOUNIE IN ORDER TO TALK WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS. THROUGH THESE REPRESENTATIVES, HE WILL CONVEY MY GREETINGS TO THESE LEADERS, INCLUDING FRANGIE, AND TACKLE THE CREDENTIALS ISSUE HEAD ON BY NOTING THAT I AM RELUCTANT TO APPEAR TO INVOLVE MYSELF IN AN INTERNAL CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE STILL IN TRAIN. I AM THEREFORE AWAITING

THE OUTCOME.

4. HE WILL ALSO REITERATE OUT INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, AND STRESS THE FUTILITY OF A MILITARY SOLUTION, ARGUING ONCE MORE IN FAVOR OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BASED ON MODERATION, CONCILIATION AND COMPROMISE. HE WILL ALLUDE TO THE CONDITIONS BEST SUITED TO FOSTER A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND THEREBY ATTEMPTED TO GET THINKING TURNED TOWARD THE ADVANTAGES OF AN EARLY RESIGNATION.

MELOY
UNQUOTE
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE123897
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EGABINGTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760195-1166
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760532/aaaabavx.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 4432
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS ON SARKIS' EVALUATION OF LOCAL SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, JO, (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006